

## **SOAC DATES AND DEPARTMENT HEAD DETAILING**

<b>CLASS</b>	<b>CONVENE</b>	<b>GRADUATE</b>
<b>17010</b>	31 Oct 16	28 Apr 17
<b>17020</b>	09 Jan 17	23 Jun 17
<b>17030</b>	13 Mar 17	25 Aug 17
<b>17040</b>	08 May 17	20 Oct 17
<b>17050</b>	10 Jul 17	21 Dec 17
<b>17060</b>	05 Sep 17	02 Mar 18
<b>18010</b>	30 Oct 17	27 Apr 18
<b>18020</b>	16 Jan 18	29 Jun 18
<b>18030</b>	12 Mar 18	24 Aug 18
<b>18040</b>	07 May 18	19 Oct 18
<b>18050</b>	09 Jul 18	20 Dec 18
<b>18060</b>	04 Sep 18	01 Mar 19
<b>19010</b>	29 Oct 18	26 Apr 19
<b>19010</b>	14 Jan 19	28 Jun 19

The basic timeline for SOAC/Department Head detailing is shown below using SOAC class convening date as a reference. Every attempt is made to meet this timeline as close as possible:

### **4-8 months prior to convening date:**

- Orders to SOAC issued
- Request for preferences made

### **4 weeks prior to convening date:**

- Department Head class slating is started

### **2 weeks prior to convening date:**

- Verbal orders issued

### **Arrival at SOAC:**

- Department Head orders generated

**1 month after arrival at SOAC:**

- Orders to ship transmitted (NOTE: the actual order transmission date can vary due to fluctuating financial conditions)

## **Assignment Methodology**

SOAC class assignments are based primarily on PRD. SOAC class sizes are limited by the number of submarines and the ability for Naval Submarine School to support that class. This can result in a small number of officers who must be shifted between classes to equalize student loading. However, these shifts normally involve only a 1-2 month delay in detaching from the previous command. Junior officers on their shore tour should contact the Division Officer Detailer at jarrett.crossgrove@navy.mil (901)874-3943 (DSN 882-3943) about 9 months prior to their PRD to confirm SOAC class assignments.

After the Division Officer detailer contacts the perspective students for a SOAC class, they will be passed to the Department Head detailer, LCDR Ed May (421B). Once orders are issued to the class, typically about 3-4 months before class-up the detailer will send a detailed request for preferences to the class. As these preferences are requested via e-mail, ensure that you keep your current e-mail address updated on BUPERS online (BOL). Refer to the Drumbeat for directions on how to update your email address.

Assignments are ultimately dependent on what billets are available. Within these confines, several other factors are considered in determining an individual's assignment. These factors include previous duty history, command employment and schedule, wardroom strengths and weaknesses, individual career needs, and of course individual duty preferences. Each class must be slated as a whole to balance the various factors involved for each student. Unexpected events during the slating process or while at SOAC can lead to assignment changes, but every effort is made to prevent changing homeports during SOAC unless an individual volunteers for the change.

Uncertainty surrounding ship schedules, split tour options, and unscheduled personnel losses in the fleet make it very difficult to determine the availability of ship billet openings more than 6 months in the future. This precludes discussing department head assignments earlier than about 2-3 months prior to the SOAC class convening date.

Please contact LCDR Edward May with any further questions.